

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of representing a selection of text from a first document as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) formatted selection such that the selection of text carries data particular to the selection of text for use in a second document:

selecting a first portion of text in a first document;

applying data to the selection of text; and

applying XML markup to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data apart from any data applied to other portions of text in the first document or any subsequent document into which the selection of text is inserted.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

inserting the selection of text into a second document; and

parsing the second document for data required for the second document after inserting the selection of text into the second document.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising determining the data applied to the selection of text in the first document upon encountering the XML markup applied to the selection of text.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising

applying the data applied to the selection of text in the first document to the selection of text in the second document; and

displaying the second document whereby the data applied to the selection of text in the first document is applied to the selection of text in the second document apart from any data applied to any other text contained in the second document.

5. The method of Claim 2, whereby parsing the second document for data required for the second document after inserting the selection of text into the second document includes parsing any XML markup applied to the second document including parsing the XML markup applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data.

6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising parsing the second document with an XML parsing application capable of understanding the XML markup applied to the second document and capable of understanding the XML markup applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data applied to the selection of text in the first document.

7. The method of Claim 6, whereby applying XML markup to the selection of text includes applying an XML tag to the selection of text whereby the XML tag may be recognized by an XML parsing application as designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data applied to the selection of text in the first document apart from any data applied to other portions of text in the first document or any other document into which the portion of text is inserted.

8. The method of Claim 7, whereby during parsing the second document for the XML markup to applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data applied to the selection text in the first document, locating the XML tag applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the data applied to the selection of text in the first document.

9. The method of Claim 8, whereby the XML tag is a <cfChunk> tag.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising associating the selection of text with an XML schema file for providing a definition of the XML markup applied to

the selection of text and for providing an XML parsing application rules for understanding and using the XML tag.

11. A method of representing a selection of text from a first document as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) formatted selection such that the selection of text carries formatting data particular to the selection of text for use in a second document:

selecting a first portion of text in a first document;

applying formatting data particular to the selection of text;

applying an XML tag to the selection of text whereby the XML tag may be recognized by an XML parsing application as designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the particular formatting data apart from any formatting applied to other portions of text;

inserting the selection of text into a second document;

parsing the second document for formatting data required for the second document;

determining the formatting data particular to the selection of text upon encountering the XML tag applied to the selection of text;

applying the formatting data particular to the selection of text to the selection of text in the second document; and

displaying the second document whereby the formatting data particular to the selection of text is applied to the selection of text in the second document apart from any formatting applied to any other text contained in the second document.

12. The method of Claim 11, whereby the XML tag is a <cfChunk> tag.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising associating the selection of text with an XML schema file for providing a definition of the XML tag applied to the selection of text and for providing an XML parsing application rules for understanding and using the XML tag.

14. A computer readable medium on which is stored instructions which when executed by a computer perform a method of representing a selection of text from a first document as an Extensible Markup Language (XML) formatted selection such that the selection of text carries formatting data particular to the selection of text for use in a second document:

- selecting a first portion of text in a first document;
- applying formatting data to the selection of text; and
- applying XML markup to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data apart from any formatting applied to other portions of text in the first document or any subsequent document into which the selection of text is inserted.

15. The computer readable medium of Claim 14, further comprising:

- inserting the selection of text into a second document;
- parsing the second document for formatting data required for the second document after inserting the selection of text into the second document;
- determining the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document upon encountering the XML markup applied to the selection of text;
- applying the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document to the selection of text in the second document; and
- displaying the second document whereby the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document is applied to the selection of text in the second document apart from any formatting applied to any other text contained in the second document.

16. The computer readable medium of Claim 15, whereby parsing the second document for formatting required for the second document after inserting the selection of text into the second document includes parsing any XML markup applied to the second document including parsing the XML markup applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data.

17. The computer readable medium of Claim 16, further comprising parsing the second document with an XML parsing application capable of understanding the XML markup applied to the second document and capable of understanding the XML markup applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document.

18. The computer readable medium of Claim 17, whereby applying XML markup to the selection of text includes applying an XML tag to the selection of text whereby the XML tag may be recognized by an XML parsing application as designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document apart from any formatting applied to other portions of text in the first document or any other document into which the portion of text is inserted.

19. The computer readable medium of Claim 18, whereby during parsing the second document for the XML markup to applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data applied to the selection text in the first document, locating the XML tag applied to the selection of text for designating that the selection of text is formatted according to the formatting data applied to the selection of text in the first document.

20. The computer readable medium of Claim 14, further comprising associating the selection of text with an XML schema file for providing a definition of the XML markup applied to the selection of text and for providing an XML parsing application rules for understanding and using the XML tag.